

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
40th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

JEFF MORRIS

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



FINANCE
INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

November 27, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Hand Received

NOV 27 2019

Office of the Governor

Governor Inslee:

The greatest professional honor I have had is in serving the community where I grew up in the State Legislature. I have accepted a position with one of the largest companies in the world developing the best smart grid, decarbonization, and artificial intelligence technologies. I will not be able to take time away from this position to serve in our part-time citizen legislature this coming January. After twenty-three years of service, I have made the decision to step down from my House of Representatives seat effective January 6th, 2020.

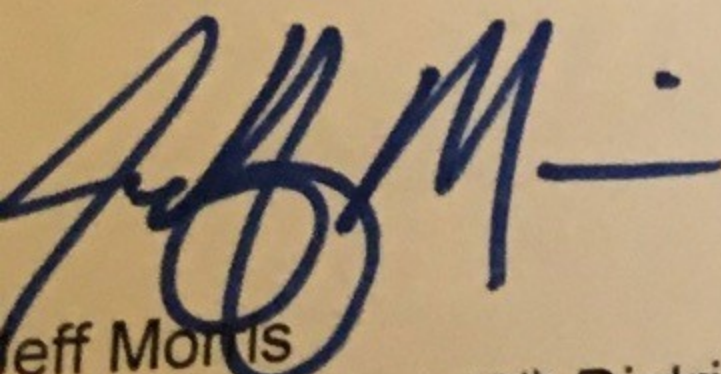
As a freshman in the minority party in 1997, I joined the fight with my community to save the Anacortes to Sidney, BC ferry run. Working first with Mayor Dean Maxwell, then Rep. Steve Van Luven, and then Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen, we all managed to save this important economic link. That same term I worked with Rep. Barry Sehlin to change the wetland mitigation laws that allowed the wonderful wetlands to be developed around the Skagit County Airport. I learned about working across party lines to find solutions from my years working for Congressman Al Swift in the Washington State congressional delegation. That experience has allowed me to serve the 40th District well.

As Co-Majority floor leader during the 49-49 tie in the house, I was able to work with Rep. Brian Thomas, Rep. Poulson, and Rep. Crouse in minute detail to refine and develop what was then called the best net-metering law in the country. A few years later I lead the creation of the first laws in the nation that required fossil fuel based electric generation to mitigate part of their lifetime emissions, and required utilities to consider carbon risk in life cycle Integrated Resource Planning processes. These are two laws that have had the most significant impacts to our state - but are not easily understood in political terms.

Working with Sen. Harriet Spanel and Rep. Dave Quall and our community to save the Blanchard Mountain forest, protect the Lake Whatcom watershed, and protect nature of all types in the San Juan Islands will always be my fondest memories of public service. In the last several years finding a permanent funding source for Washington State Ferries, while modest, provided the revenue to build the remainder of the Olympic class ferries. Updating the 2005 IRP law in 2013 to include technologies that can take capacity off the electricity grid (like energy storage), and this past year passing the distributed resource planning framework, will let data and science be clear on the most cost effective path to decarbonization. This will keep rates low for our constituents regardless of what the easiest political solutions are.

I have only been allowed to work on these issues because of the people of the 40th District. They raised, educated, supported, and elected me to represent them in Olympia. My new position - while covering all of North America - allows me to still live in the place I have always called home. I will continue to work to serve the community that has given so much to a local boy of mixed race and very modest means.

Respectively,


Jeff Morris
Representative 40th District

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